

DELTA AD HOC RECREATION COMMITTEE

C/o Delta Protection Commission

P.O. Box 530

Walnut Grove, CA 95690

March 29, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155

Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Suggestions for Recreation Projects in the Area of the North Delta Bundle

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

In the August 10, 1999 letter to Lester Snow from the Delta Protection Commission and the Department of Boating and Waterways, several general categories of recreation projects, and grant programs to fund those projects, were identified. This letter includes more refined suggestions for the North Delta Bundle study area, and identifies responsible entities for each suggested improvement (noted in parentheses). The Delta Ad Hoc Recreation Committee supports inclusion of these or similar projects in the ongoing planning effort for the North Delta study area (Stone Lakes, Cosumnes and Mokelumne confluence to the San Joaquin River).

Three key sites stand out as "opportunity" sites due to public or non-profit ownership and the large size of the properties. These include Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, McCormack-Williamson Tract in the Cosumnes Preserve, and Delta Meadows River Park. Each of these sites could become an outstanding recreational site serving visitors year-round, and provide both water and land access. At each site, education could be combined with passive and active recreational opportunities as outlined below. Finally, these sites can and will also be enhanced for wildlife habitat, water conveyance, flood control, and other uses, consistent with CALFED goals. A location map is attached.

Public Restrooms and Sewage Pump-out Facilities:

- Delta Meadows River Park – upgrade existing restroom facilities and provide a sewage pumpout facility for recreational vessels (Department of Parks and Recreation)
- Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge – provide restrooms (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- McCormack-Williamson Tract – provide restrooms (The Nature Conservancy)
- Brannan-Andrus Dredge Disposal Site – provide restrooms (Sacramento County)

Swimming Beaches and Shoreline Access:

Examples include Boy Scout Beach (Georgiana Slough), Steamboat Slough, and B&W Resort – enlarge existing and create new beaches

Bicycle and Hiking Trails:

- Delta Loop Waterfront – construct a new bicycle/hiking trail on the levees of the “Delta Loop” area of Sacramento County (Delta Chambers/Delta Loop Association/Sacramento County)
- McCormack-Williamson Tract – develop new trails (The Nature Conservancy)
- Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge – develop new trails (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Hunting Areas:

- Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge – provide public hunting opportunities (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Non-Motorized Boating Trails:

- Delta Meadows River Park – develop boating trails within the park (Department of Boating and Waterways, Department of Parks and Recreation)
- McCormack-Williamson Tract – consider providing new boating trails (Department of Boating and Waterways, The Nature Conservancy)

Fishing Piers/Other Shore Fishing Access, Fish Cleaning Stations:

- Delta Meadows River Park – provide additional fishing access (Department of Parks and Recreation)
- McCormack-Williamson Tract – consider providing fishing access (The Nature Conservancy)
- Delta Cross Channel – provide improved parking and other facilities to support existing bank fishing near the Delta Cross Channel (Bureau of Reclamation)
- Brannan-Andrus Dredge Disposal Site – provide shoreline fishing access (Sacramento County)

Courtesy Docks:

- Isleton (City of Isleton) – support the courtesy dock for Isleton which is in the planning stage
- Courtland (Sacramento County) – support a courtesy dock for Courtland
- McCormack-Williamson Tract – consider providing a new courtesy dock to provide public access to flooded areas (The Nature Conservancy)
- Delta Meadows River Park – provide a courtesy dock to allow access to shore from moored vessels (Department Parks and Recreation)
- Hood – consider a new courtesy dock at Hood, to provide access to the Stone Lakes Refuge; location could also serve as a Visitor Center (Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Boater Destination Facilities:


- Delta Meadows River Park – provide new facilities for land and water based recreation uses (Department of Parks and Recreation)
- McCormack-Williamson Tract – provide new facilities for land and water based recreation uses (The Nature Conservancy)
- Westgate Landing – expand Westgate Landing's water and land facilities (this is a well-recognized model for destination sites in the Delta) (San Joaquin County)
- Georgiana Slough Fishing Access – upgrade and possibly expand existing facilities (this facility is currently day-use only) (Sacramento County)
- Mooring areas (in several appropriate locations) – install mooring buoys (private interests)

Mitigation of Lost Boating Facilities and Activities:

- Delta Cross Channel – If the Delta Cross Channel is closed during boating season, add a boat lock to allow boat movement (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)
- Port of Sacramento – Reoperate the lock at the northern end of the Deepwater Ship Channel (Port of Sacramento)

The ideas listed in this letter should continue to be evaluated for cost, implementability, and value to the public. The members of the Delta Ad Hoc Recreation Committee will continue to circulate these ideas to appropriate parties. The Committee looks forward to continuing to work with CALFED on recreation issues and improvements.

Sincerely,



Bill Curry, Chairman
Delta Ad Hoc Recreation Committee

cc: Rob Cooke, CALFED